

Littlefield Letters



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MARCH 1993

No. 3

MARCH MUSTER CALL

date: Thursday
11 March 1993
time: 6:15 p.m.
place: Mess Call
Wyatt's Cafeteria
Hancock Center

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed a nice Valentine's Party. Many were present to share this holiday experience, a special cake, and flowers for our lovely ladies. There were enough flowers to even send some home for those ladies who unfortunately had missed the meeting. How wonderful to have a packed house!

This month, the program will be brought by Compatriot Ed Smith. Ed will use slides in his presentation on "Images of Richmond." Ed's home was Richmond during his earlier years, and he tells wonderful stories of talking to a family member who actually was a Confederate Veteran.

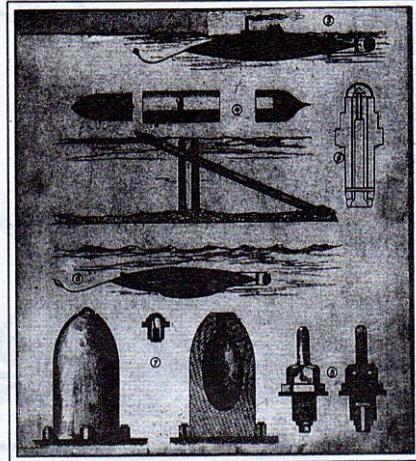
Please come, and bring your families and any guest who might possibly be a recruit. Remember, our agenda is such that guests may leave after the program without having to stay for the business meeting if they so desire. Won't you come?

A MUCH NEEDED CARGO

The date was 10 October 1861. The steamer Fingal left the Scot port of Greenock bound for Bermuda. In her hold were 14,000 Enfield rifles, four artillery pieces, a million cartridges, and 400 pounds of gunpowder. Both ship and cargo were recent purchases of the Confederacy's chief European agent, James Bullock. The Feds found out about the Fingal, and they posted eight warships off the South Atlantic coast in hopes of intercepting the ship. After coaling in Bermuda, the Fingal steamed fast toward Georgia. On a foggy, moonless night she sailed past the blockaders and slipped into Savannah. Her cargo armed two infantry divisions!

THOSE INFERNAL MACHINES

"Infernal machines" were the names Northerners used to collectively refer to a variety of naval weapons. There were various types of torpedoes (as mines were then called). Some were beer kegs filled with gun powder which were free floating. They exploded against the hulls of enemy vessels using contact fuzes. Others were mounted on posts or piles driven into river bottoms. The most advanced types could be electrically triggered by a wire connecting them with the shore. The South, in attempting to defend their rivers and harbors and to defeat the Federal blockade, sunk twenty-seven warships, including the steam sloop Housatonic, three iron clad gunboats, and four large monitors!



An array of Confederate naval weapons, including torpedo boats, spar torpedoes fixed to pilings, and contact fuzes that were designed to explode these weapons.



WHAT'S A HAVELOCK?

The havelock is a white kepi cover with a long tail draping over the wearer's neck and shoulders. It was named for Sir Henry Havelock, the British military man who made it popular in India in the 1850's. It was considered smart military apparel in hot climates; however, even though worn by Yankees and Confederates to ward off sunstroke, it was eliminated from uniforms when it was found that it cut off air circulation around the head and face.

MEDALS

Just a reminder that the SCV and UDC both would like to honor those who served in the military during times of armed conflict with a special medal. Southerners have always been in the forefront in defending our country, and this is one way of honoring you while remembering our glorious past. For more information, contact your Adjutant.

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THE SAM G. COOK

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Major George Washington Littlefield Camp No. 59 is pleased to announce that a scholarship award has been promulgated for the camp winner of the Texas Division Essay Contest consisting now of \$100. A special memorial scholarship fund has been set up due to the generous donation of Belle Cook. If you would like to make a special donation to the fund, please contact your Adjutant.

This scholarship was unanimously approved at the February meeting. It is named for a long-time former Compatriot who (along with his lovely wife, Belle) always contributed his time and talents to the Cause and Camp #59 as well as to the UDC.

The Texas Division sponsors an essay contest for High School students through the local camps on a subject pertaining to the Confederacy. The

hip awarded by Division to \$500 to a winner from the entire state. al winner, thanks to the f the camp and Belle, also have a cash hip award. If you more information, your Commander or

SUPPLY WAGONS

In the rear echelon, the quartermaster was one of the unsung heroes of the War. His job was to feed and clothe and otherwise supply the men despite every obstacle. Often the armies were so dependent on supply wagons that the numbers stretched from the depot to the front line and measured one continuous wagon train.

In McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, he had 5,000 supply wagons with 30,000 animals to pull them. They delivered everything from rations and ammunition to medicine and telegraph wire. The roads were atrocious. It was said army mules sank out of sight in the mud except for their ears. This trip took a heavy toll on the wagons (along with enemy action). By the time the failed campaign was over three months later, there were just about 2500 wagons and his maneuverability was severely crippled.

SPECIAL UDC BOOK -- HELP SOUGHT

The Texas Division UDC has granted Edith Williams permission to publish a book containing photos and descriptions of monuments and historical markers honoring people, events, or locations in Texas connected with the Confederacy. Help is needed in locating monuments and historical markers (excluding grave markers) throughout the state that mention the Confederacy. She will gladly accept any help possible, either from you personally or from someone you know in some county who can help. Funds from the book will benefit Texas UDC projects.



Above: Newspaper artist Edwin Forbes drew this Federal supply wagon drawn by six mules.

CIRCLE OF FIRE

"We are utterly cut off from the world, surrounded by a circle of fire," wrote a Vicksburg woman in her journal. There were 4600 people living in Vicksburg, Miss. during the siege. In fact, they are the only American civilians ever to endure a full-fledged siege! For 47 days, starting 19 May 1863, they and 30,000 of General Pemberton's soldiers were completely ringed by the Federal army. On the land, General Grant had 200 guns to bombard the town; from the Mississippi River, the Federal navy added 100 more guns to the cannonade. We all know that they surrendered on 4 July 1863. Did

you know that it was not until World War II that Vicksburg would again celebrate the Fourth of July! Understandable.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET

* To send letters to the Governor requesting May be declared Southern History Month.

* The Confederate History Symposium at Hill College in Hillsboro and accompanying Division Executive Comm. meeting.

* To attend your monthly meeting; Ways & Means Comm. may just have a door prize or two to give away.

- THE LITTLEFIELD LETTERS -

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SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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Gregory T. Hector, Editor

Todd Hector, Distribution Ed.

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These Companions have contributed \$10 or more toward the publication of this newsletter and the continuation of the Cause.

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